

Sports by the Book: A Look at Recreational How-Tos
Black Writers in the Marketplace • Zapping the Inventory: A New Approach
What Hard-Soft Deals Should Mean for Authors

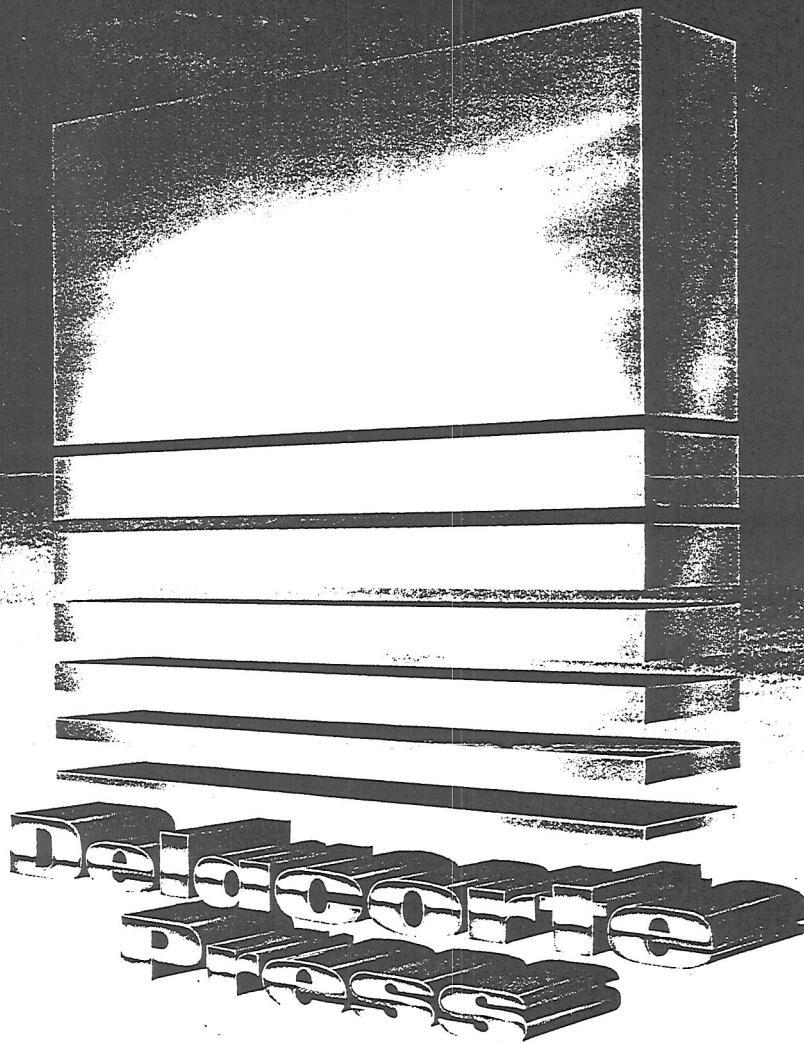
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with her husband and children. But readers may not get far past the threshold of understanding the "bone house," as the author regards her body. Mairs (*Plaintext; In All the Rooms of the Yellow House*) is a person of accomplishments, coping with multiple sclerosis and recovering from suicide attempts and other ills to succeed as a college teacher as well as a writer. Yet her book loses much of its zest because of her incessant repetition, in eventually wearisome detail, of her sexual adventures with many men and her brief affair with a woman. Though Mairs believes these experiences were necessary to create erotic poetry—the linchpin of her life—the lurid effects drown her poet's voice and seem more exploitative than revelatory. (Apr.)

THE DANCE OF INTIMACY:

A Woman's Guide to Courageous Acts of Change in Key Relationships
Harriet Goldhor Lerner. Harper & Row, \$17.95 ISBN 0-06-016067-5

This sensible self-help book draws on family-systems therapy in recommending thoughtful "self-focus" for women stuck in difficult relationships with either mates or families. Emphasizing that "a truly intimate relationship is one in which we can be who we are, which means being open about ourselves," Lerner (*The Dance of Anger; Women in Therapy*) highlights the importance of women defining themselves, their needs and limits, rather than reacting to anxiety unthinkingly—either by emotionally distancing themselves from problems or by overreacting. A staff psychologist and psychotherapist at the Menninger Clinic, Lerner illustrates her points with case studies from her family as well as her practice. To explore what unhelpful patterns of behavior may be passed down from past generations, she advises creating a genogram, or family diagram, going back to a person's grandparents or earlier. Lerner's book presumes at least an acquaintance with professional jargon but should be accessible to most readers of pop psychology. (Apr.)

GLENN GOULD: A Life and Variations
Otto Friedrich. Random, \$22.50 ISBN 0-394-57771-X

A senior writer for *Time*, whose biographies and cultural histories (*Decline and Fall; Before the Deluge; City of Nets*) have been well received, has written an unorthodox, authorized biography of his hero of 33 years, the extraordinary Canadian pianist and eccentric. Like the music world generally, Friedrich was overwhelmed by Gould's first commercial recording, of Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, and this and the later recording of the *Variations*

in 1981, serve as the guideposts and summation of an amazing career. Organized thematically (the composer, the TV star, the conductor, the private life, etc.) rather than chronologically, and incorporating 80 interviews, printed material and documents from the vast Gould archive in Ottawa, this absorbing adulatory work goes well beyond previous books on Gould and presents more detail and speculation than anyone but a Gould enthusiast would require. However, we are told that more than 60,000 of Gould's record albums are sold every year, so booksellers can expect a considerable demand for the biography as well. More than 100 pages list Gould's concerts, recordings, TV and radio shows and published writings. Photos. (Apr.)

*THE MURKIN CONSPIRACY:

An Investigation of the Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Philip H. Melanson. Praeger, \$21.95 ISBN 0-275-93029-7

Melanson, assassination expert and political science professor at Southern Massachusetts University, has done an exhaustively thorough job on the still-mysterious King assassination. After following Melanson's meticulous pursuit of seemingly every lead in the case—including interviews with the men whose names were used as aliases for alleged killer James Earl Ray—there can be little doubt in the reader's mind that neither of the two official versions of what happened could have been the whole truth. The first was the ever-popular notion of the lone killer: Ray. The second, propounded by a clearly inept congressional investigation a decade after the 1968 shooting, was that an ill-defined racist conspiracy was behind the assassination. What seems unarguable is that Ray, a petty criminal, could not have killed King unaided. There are too many improbabilities—the source of his carefully chosen Canadian aliases, the identity of the "fat man" who brought him a "letter" in Toronto during his escape, the odd setup at the rooming house from which the shot was fired. It is Melanson's thesis that there was high-level intelligence involvement, probably by the CIA, which was violently alarmed by King's anti-Vietnam stance. (Apr.)

PROGRESS OF THE SEASONS:

Forty Years of Baseball in Our Town
George V. Higgins. Holt, \$18.95 ISBN 0-8050-0913-2

Higgins (*Wonderful Years, Wonderful Years; The Friends of Eddie Coyle*, etc.) grew up in Boston, and in this history of the Red Sox, he weaves the events of his life into the hometown backdrop of athletic non-achievement at the shrine of Fenway Park. Indoc-

MACMILLAN PUBLISHING COMPANY announces its new discount schedule

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